

Banner-Tribune

'The Voice of the Teche'

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Homes to weather the storm

Many homes and buildings endured the powerful winds of Hurricane Andrew and are here to attest to their construction.

Two companies out of Texas, one which made a presentation in Franklin, have said they are in the business of constructing homes able to endure winds such as Andrew's.

One company, Korwall Industries, Inc., of Arlington, Texas, learned that a home built near Franklin made from materials manufactured by the company survived the storm.

The house is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Prince at 2475 Irish Bend Road. The home was built in 1991 by Wooden Creations of Gonzales, La., using sandwich panels from Korwall Industries.

Prince told Korwall that the house survived the 160-plus mph winds that ripped through Franklin and surrounding areas for nearly five hours August 26. The home sustained minor damage to an attached porch, but the structure was not moved nor were there any cracks in

the texture of sheet rock in the house. Even with the howling winds, Prince said that the house did not creak or groan and that he and his family stayed and weathered the storm and felt quite safe inside.

Korwall's sandwich panels are 3 1/2" or 5 1/2" or 7 1/2" expanded polystyrene bonded to 7/16" O.S.B. wafer board on both sides. These panels are strong and energy efficient. They are new to the area having been erected by Wooden Creations since 1988.

Several homes in the state built using the sandwich panels by Korwall weathered the storm without damage as well.

The material is constructed to endure such events as Andrew and also events such as the recent seismic activity in Southern California, said Korwall president Stan Dimmick.

The theory of this type construction is to bond the wafer board to a core and keep each piece parallel to the opposite piece and not let them flex. The styrene is a perfect core since it has such a high energy rating as witnessed by the small cup of hot coffee (cup is 1/16" thick) that doesn't burn or the drink cooler that keeps your drinks cold for days at a time.

Dimmick has been producing sandwich panels since 1962 and the particular polystyrene structural panels since 1973. The panels are listed with I.C.B.O., B.G.O.A., SBCCI, and under the C.A.B.O. logo NER-342. There is also a HUD bulletin #110, since 1987 on the product.

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